Welcome back to all our existing families and welcome to all the new members of our Donvale PS community. If you had the opportunity to have a break over the Christmas and New Year period, I trust you were able to enjoy some relaxing time with your family and friends.

We had a great start to the 2016 school year last Friday where our children arrived looking fresh, relaxed, happy and raring to go. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces again and hear their holiday stories. The staff has been busy over the recent weeks with planning and preparation for the school year. With many new teams this year, we were able to take advantage of the Curriculum Day last Thursday to fine tune the planning for Term One. It is promising to be yet another great year where our students will have the opportunity to engage in many wonderful and exciting learning opportunities.

NEW STAFF: This year, we welcome several new staff members to our school. Rochelle Nicks and Jesamine Chin are both new members of our Foundation team. Jayde Valentine and Clare Jones have joined the 1/2 year level, Christian Garcia is a year 3 / 4 team member, Michael Chigros-Xeni is a Year 5 / 6 team member, Debora DeStefanis is our new Visual Arts Teacher and Michael Hogg is our Physical Education Teacher. All new staff has made an impressive start to the school year and is enjoying getting to know their students and community in general. Please make the time to introduce yourself to our newest staff members and welcome them aboard.

FOUNDATION '16: Our Foundation students commenced school on Monday of this week. It was wonderful to see their excited faces as their parents brought them into their classrooms proudly dressed in their school uniform. Our larger classrooms easily accommodated all the parents, grandparents, family and friends who came along to be a part of this very special day. After taking some photos and for some parents, a hesitant goodbye, the parents were then invited to come into the staff room for a cuppa to help settle the nerves or perhaps rejoice! The smooth transition into school life is a credit to our Foundation staff, parents and Kindergarten teachers for preparing the students so well. In fact, the only tears I noticed were that from some of the mums! Whether it was a family’s first child starting at Donvale or their last, it will always be a very special day. We wish all families a happy and exciting seven year educational journey with their child through our school. A special welcome is extended to those families who have joined our school community for the first time. We look forward to getting to know you.
‘GET TO KNOW YOU’ PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS: These meetings are taking place on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th Feb for parents of students in Years 1 to 6. Please add these dates to your diary and make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher if you feel you need to. These meetings are an opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher/s and discuss any relevant information regarding your child that will support the teacher/s in better planning a more personalised teaching and learning program. Appointments are made through our online program, ‘School Interviews’. You will find more information on dates, times and making an interview time, in this newsletter. If still not sure, please do not hesitate to speak to your child’s teacher. They are always only too happy to help.

FOUNDATION PARENT INFORMATION EVENING: All Foundation ‘16 parents are invited to the school for an Information Evening presented by our Foundation teachers. This session will provide our parents with more detail on curriculum, school routines, and ways you can help in the classroom. More information will be going home shortly. We look forward to seeing our Foundation parents at 7.00pm on Wednesday 10th February in the School Library.

WELLBEING / WELCOME BACK DAY & EVENING: Another very important date to add to your diary is Thursday 25th February. We are very proud to be a ‘KidsMatter’ school and we are planning this day in celebration of our work within this initiative. Donvale PS students will participate in a variety of tasks and activities that engage and support the development of students’ social and emotional wellbeing. A ‘Big Samba’ Welcome Back family BBQ will follow from 5.30 – 8.00pm where all members of our community are invited to attend a fun filled evening of music and dance. We would love to see as many of you there joining us on this very special community gathering saying to all, ‘Welcome Back’. More information on this event is found in this newsletter.

At the end of my report is an article I recently came across in ‘The Educator’ regarding the implementation of the ‘KidsMatter’ initiative in schools as an effective method to support student wellbeing. I encourage you to read it.

COMPUTER LAB: Something exciting is happening in our computer lab! Rick Gordon (ICT co-ordinator), Samantha Jones (Business Manager) and Anthony Sok (School ICT technician) have been working furiously to update our whole computer lab with brand new computers. So out with the old and in with the new as we take possession of 28 new desktop computers. We hope to have the set up completed over the next week so that our students can begin making use of this fabulous tool and resource. To support the new set up, a new and larger server was installed over the holidays allowing for a more efficient use of technology by all our staff and students across the school. Fabulous!

PLUMBING: Due to some broken water pipes it was necessary this week to call the plumbers in to do some repairs. A small area of the junior breezeway concrete flooring was cut out so that access to the damaged pipes could be obtained. The good news is that all is repaired and we will now have water flowing where it should be. Our maintenance man, Jamie, will be repairing the concrete work in the breezeway asap. In the meantime, I ask all visitors and students to be mindful when walking through this area and apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION: The very first PA meeting for the year is taking place tomorrow (Friday 5th February) in the school library at 1.30pm. Kim Merton (PA President) would like to warmly welcome all parents to join her and the team and get involved with this wonderful group of parents and association. Last year, the PA raised a wonderful amount of almost $30,000. Wow! This was such a fantastic effort by the PA and our community. The money was used to upgrade the new junior playground, line marking around the school, purchasing books and resources for the classrooms and purchasing basketball singlets for our Donvale basketballers. As with any school, fund raising plays a big part in providing our students with new and improved facilities and resources. If you have any free time and are interested in joining the PA, please come along to tomorrow’s meeting. It’s a great way to meet lots of new people and have fun supporting our school. If you are interested in joining the PA and are not able to attend the meeting tomorrow, just contact us in the office and we will follow up for you.
STAFF CAR PARK: A gentle reminder to our community that this is a staff car park only. With so many new additions to our school staff, we will need all the staff car parking that is available. We would appreciate it if our parent community refrained from parking in this car park.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: A reminder to all our parents that there is an expectation that all our students wear the Donvale PS logoed school uniform including the correct footwear all times. Black shoes when students are wearing academic uniform and sports shoes (any color is acceptable) during PE. More information is available on our school website.

Hope you’re having a wonderful week.

Lena Clark

The Educator
How mental health aware is your school?
by Brett Henebery 29 Jan 2016

Last week, a national inquiry accused schools of failing children with a disability, prompting calls for education departments to give the issue a higher priority.

The inquiry followed research conducted by Flinders University which found that these same students were being bullied at an increasing rate across all three school sectors.

Is it that schools are not as equipped to provide the support these students need? Or is it that they are lacking the resources required to enable them to do this?

Brett McDermott is professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Queensland and sits on the board of Beyond Blue.

McDermott told The Educator that one of the key issues was that schools are “asked to do everything by everybody”.

“In terms of children with autism and pervasive developmental disorder, there is no doubt that there is specific expertise around understanding their social deficit and how best to communicate with them,” he explained.

“However, in our current school environment, which is based on funding, large classrooms and noisy settings places these children in difficult circumstances in terms of coping – so I’m absolutely sure we can do better.”

Advice for principals
McDermott’s advice for principals was to make use of the Kids Matter program that he said “thousands of other schools are already using”.

“This program that looks at how schools can be mental health-friendly and aware. I would encourage
them to look very holistically at this because there is an incredible suite of resources including actual providers and coordinators who can help principals decide what to pick,” he explained.

He added that while Australia was “very rich” in terms of these resources, “every school in Australia” should use them to provide better help to students and also staff, who he said could benefit from their use.

“Principals need to understand that the usefulness of these programs is beyond the child’s mental health and have a benefit for teacher satisfaction,” McDermott said.

“If you’re a teacher and you feel more competent dealing with these issues, and if you have a more compliant classroom, you’re going to be a happier employee.”

**Advice for parents**

He said in terms of the anxiety some students might feel returning to school, parents should recognise that the new school year is a new environment for students, who are not only changing familiar class settings but also teachers.

“Parents should expect a bit of anxiety from children and positively promote that to help their child master their worries and overcome them. Fear is absolutely normal,” he said.

“Protecting your child from fear is not a good thing, nor is being overprotective and not exposing them to challenges.”

McDermott said that anxious and overprotective parents should consider how they might be passing on unnecessary stress to their child.

“Fear and anxiety is somewhat infective. For example, a parent who is anxious can confer that anxiety to their child – so you need to work out who has the most anxiety and reflect on how you’re behaving around your child,” he said.
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<td>All day: Yr 5/6 on excursion to Old Melb Gaol and Parliament House</td>
<td>3.45 - 5.30: ‘Getting to know you’ parent/teacher night</td>
<td>Swimming trials</td>
<td>3.45 - 5.30/6.00 - 8.00: ‘Getting to know you’ parent/teacher night</td>
<td>7.00 - 8.00: Foundation info night</td>
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<td>6.30pm: School Council meeting</td>
<td>‘Wellbeing’ Day Welcome BBQ: 5.30-8.00pm (5.30 BBQ and 6.00pm dancing with Big Samba)</td>
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<td>Yr 3/4 RACV “street scene” incursion</td>
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## GENERAL

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews have been scheduled for next Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th February.

**Wednesday 10th February**
- 3.45 – 5.30pm
- 6.00 – 8.00pm

**Thursday 11th February**
- 3.40 – 5.30pm

They will take the form of briefing where you will be able to pass on any relevant information about your child, in order to prepare your child’s teacher for the year ahead. Bookings will be accepted online starting tomorrow, Friday 5th February at 9.00 am. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code) to complete your booking. The booking code is **DYC8D**. We have allowed five interviews per hour, so if you require more than the allotted time, please make another time to continue the interview.
**SICK BAY**

The school has a sick bay and a number of Level 2 First-Aid Staff. The school is not equipped to look after students who are sent to school already unwell or re-dress old wounds. Sick bay is simply there to deal with children who fall ill or are injured during the course of the day.

We would like to remind all families of their responsibilities in regards to their sick children. If your child is ill or has been ill, please be responsible and do not send them to school until they are fully recovered. Too often students present themselves at the sick bay, quite unwell and on investigation, indicate that they have been away sick or were ill in the morning but the parent/carer decided to send them along, hoping they would improve or be alright. This is not fair to your child and not fair to us. These students need to be cared for by their parents. Thank you for your cooperation in regards this matter.

**MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

If your child has to take medication during school hours, a medication authority form has to be filled out. Forms are at the office as well as on the website. Any medication that comes to school has to be kept at the office and not with the student (except ventolin).

Please note: Wherever possible, medication should be scheduled outside the school hours, e.g. medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day: it can be taken before and after school and before bed.

Asthmatics should have their medication with them at all times.

Anaphylactic students have their medication kept at the office in their named individual bags.

**LOST PROPERTY**

The beginning of the year, when your children are looking great in their new school uniforms is the time to make sure they are clearly named. Lost property items are located in the passage outside the OschClub Room in Building A and Building B has a basket at the top of the ramp outside the door.

**PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL**

Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to Schools and it has no capacity to pay for any loss or damage to such property. We therefore do discourage students and visitors from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school.

**STUDENT BANKING**

Student banking will start next week Wednesday 10th Feb. Students bring in their deposit books to school on a Tuesday and it will be processed on Wednesday. Books are returned to the classroom. Information packs are available from the office if you want your child to participate.

Any questions about banking please don’t hesitate to ask me.

Thank you. Happy banking.

*Jenny Raftopoulos  (Aaron, 34B)*
SUBWAY LUNCHES
Subway lunch orders are available every Friday. Students who want to order need to take home an order envelope (available from the classroom or office). Orders need to be returned to school by recess on Thursday (this is when Subway collects the orders).

Late orders will not be accepted. Please do not ring Subway as they cannot process your order, it has to be through the school.

HEADLICE
Head lice will be a problem from time to time in Donvale Primary School and it is important to work together as a school community to minimise the frustration caused by the problem. If your child has head lice – tell anyone who has had head to head contact with them. Also, it is important to let the school know so that we can advise parents in your child’s grade to check their child’s hair.

Head lice are not fussy about the heads they live on – they make no consideration for income, ethnicity or hair colour. They live their entire lives on human heads and their entire food and water source is supplied from the scalp. Head lice have been around for many thousands of years and they will not be eradicated. Head lice don’t fly or jump – they crawl from head to head. This often happens when people play or work closely together.

Head lice (Pediculosis humanus capitis) are small (3-4mm) wingless insects, which are common particularly in school aged children. Head lice are a common problem in Australian schools and exact figures on the size of the problem vary. Eggs can be difficult to see; use a strong light (such as sunlight) and look on the hair shafts. If you are not sure whether an object you find is a head louse egg, try sliding it up the hair shaft using your fingers. Eggs are usually quite difficult to move, whereas dandruff and other items slide easily.

Students with long hair are very strongly advised to tie it back while at school.

FROM THE IT DEPARTMENT

SKOOLBAG APP
This is an important communication tool that the school uses to inform the school community of events and send reminders and notifications. If you haven’t downloaded the app to your mobile device, please do so ASAP, especially for new families to the school. The detailed instructions are included elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will continue to use this app until parents have had a chance to connect to Compass, which will consolidate all the communication channels that parents use to communicate with the school. Parents who currently have Skoolbag are asked to check the year levels that they receive notifications for, and update as necessary.

NEW COMPUTER LAB
We have upgraded the computers in the lab, and they were unboxed this week. We hope to have them imaged and connected to the network ready for use next week.

There is a big pile of cardboard boxes in the bike shed that will be recycled unless they are picked up by any family that is preparing to move house or that can use them for storage.

Rick Gordon  ICT Co-ordinator
**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year will be paid for eligible primary school students, with $225 per year paid for eligible secondary school students. Payments will go directly to the school and be allocated to the student.

If you think you might be eligible, please complete the application form at the end of this newsletter, or visit the office to receive one, and return it to the office with a copy of your valid concession card. We are happy to make copies for you at the office. If you have any questions regarding CSEF please contact Samantha in the office.

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Snippets gets emailed to parents each week and we have extracted email addresses from our database. If additional emails need to be added or deleted, please let the office know. Also, can parents please keep the office updated of any changes to email addresses. Thank you.

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**PARKING**

We are asking all parents to please obey the parking rules around the school and also be very mindful of not parking across neighbour’s driveways. Below is our rules regarding drop-off and pick-up.
Donvale Primary School is a KidsMatter school

We are very enthusiastic about motivating and teaching students how to be physically and mentally fit, in order to be happy and healthy learners.

What is KidsMatter?

For those that are new to our school, please read below to learn all about how KidsMatter benefits your child and our school community.

KidsMatter is a mental health and wellbeing framework for primary schools and is proven to make a positive difference to the lives of Australian children. KidsMatter primarily promotes preventative measures in order to raise strong, healthy and mentally fit kids.

The KidsMatter framework is divided into four component areas to make the task of working to improve student’s mental health and wellbeing in schools more manageable.

The four components are:

1. Positive school community
2. Social and emotional learning for students
3. Working with parents and carers

Each component is unpacked into more specific target areas and goals to help schools with their planning.

For more information, please visit [http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary). The website has some wonderful videos with case studies from schools across Australia. It also has some very useful resources and links for parents.

At Donvale Primary we have fully implemented the first component, ‘Building a Positive School Community.’ And are about to kick off Component two, Social and Emotional Learning for students. For this new component, the staff will participate in four professional learning sessions, led by the KidsMatter Action Team.

Over the 18 months that we have been a KidsMatter school, it has been wonderful to work together as a staff to brainstorm and implement strategies that have built on the wonderful sense of community we have at our school. Some of these initiatives have included:

- DPS Wellbeing and KidsMatter Launch Day in 2015
- All teachers out in the school yard after school to connect with the community and make ourselves available to parents and students
- Wine and cheese welcome 2015 night after the Foundation information session for new Foundation parents.
- ‘Welcome Back’ BBQ for all DPS families at the completion of our Wellbeing Day
- ‘Getting to Know You’ interviews
‘Carols on the lawn’ at the end of the year

Regular Snippets articles educating parents about raising physically and mentally fit children

At Donvale Primary, we believe that the KidsMatter framework helps students, staff and the wider Donvale Primary community be happier and healthier learners and citizens than they already are!

As part of the Social and Emotional Learning Component (SEL), we will be introducing the Bounce Back! wellbeing and resilience program across the school this term. Bounce Back! is an award-winning wellbeing and resilience class-based program for children and young people from Kindergarten to Middle School.

Bounce Back! offers practical strategies to help children and young people function well at school and in life. It is a whole school social and emotional learning curriculum program. Bounce Back! promotes positive mental health, wellbeing and resilience for students and teachers plus safe and supportive class and school learning environments. For more information on the program, please visit [http://www.bounceback.com.au/](http://www.bounceback.com.au/)

Lashay Cartledge and Rebecca Signorini
Student Wellbeing Coordinators, on behalf of the KidsMatter Action Team.

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**GROWING HEALTHY MINDS**

Starting school is a big deal. It involves a new routine, new environment, new relationships, new rules, new expectations and more – all things that can make for a lot of anxiety if you don’t help your child navigate it.

For some children, the start of school signals the first time they will be separated from a parent for any real length of time. With all of the changes and new experiences starting school brings, it’s no surprise that the start of school can trigger anxiety in some children (and parents).

Please read the attached article from KidsMatter, 'Belonging at school makes a difference', for some tips and tricks to help your child with this transition.

For lots of useful articles, please see the KidsMatter website to access the following links to help your child with the transition to school.

- Getting ready for school
- Understanding behaviour
- Problem solving
- Coping skills for children
- A change for the whole family
- Getting help when starting school
- Thinking about transition to school

**KidsMatter Wellbeing Day**

We are all looking forward to seeing lots of happy, smiling faces on Thursday the 25th of February, at our annual ‘KidsMatter Wellbeing Day’ and our evening family BBQ. Mrs Keep has organised a special interactive visit from a wonderful musical group called ‘The Big Samba’ for the first hour of the evening (6-7pm) and the staff band, The Write Staff, will also be performing, so stay tuned for more info.

During the Wellbeing day we have a very special visitor returning to Donvale Primary. Ruby, the therapy dog, is bringing along her owner Jason, and they will be wandering around the school throughout the day to give lots of cuddles and to receive lots of pats from all of our happy students.
Parents are welcome and are encouraged to help throughout Wellbeing Day. If you are able to offer some assistance, please see Lashay Cartledge, Rebecca Signorini, Lawrie Spooner or Jaqui Frigo. Thank you!

Please encourage your child to add a 'touch of colour that makes them happy' to their sports uniform on Wellbeing Day. Staff will be wearing happy colours too!

Looking forward to a wonderful day and a relaxing, fun evening with our fabulous school community!

Lashay Cartledge and Rebecca Signorini, on behalf of the KidsMatter Action Team

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**JUNIOR CHEF CLUB**

Welcome back to everyone and welcome to the new families! My name is Laura. My family and I moved from Italy just over a year ago. Growing up in Italy I nurture the love for great food that is simple and healthy. I'd like to share my passion and curiosity with the students at our school. Seven years ago, Liang and Martin Dimitroff (now ex parents of Donvale PS) created the ‘Junior Chef’ program at the school. It was a very successful program where students had the opportunity to cook and create. All the children enjoyed it. I have now inherited the program. With your help it will be great and continue to provide the students of DPS with further exciting cooking experiences.

We charge a small fee of $5 for each session to buy the ingredients; your child will take part actively in the class. I love the hands on approach, so they work with flour, water, yeast and whatever are the ingredients required. As all good things, it’s first in best dressed! We will give about a week notice in our Snippets newsletter. Make sure you read it every Thursday or your child might miss out on a fun experience. Junior chef classes run during the lunch break, from 1.30 to 2.15 so the children get to run and get some fresh air too.

I am a parent, running this course voluntarily with the help of other parents. Unfortunately it’s difficult to cater for children with allergies or food intolerances. We will use wheat flour and dairy products, so please make sure we know if your child has severe intolerances well in advance and we will do our best to offer another option. Please feel free to approach me at any stage - my daughter is Giorgia in 1/2W, so I am in the main playing area at drop off and pick up times.

Stay tuned for the first class soon to come...I am thinking PIZZZAAA!!

Cucinate con me?

Laura Emozione
SPECIALISTS

We welcome two new members to our team this year. Deb De Stefanis begins her time at Donvale Primary in our Visual Arts room and Michael Hogg takes on the new Physical Education role. They both bring enthusiasm and experience to our Specialist Program.

Anthea Keep (Performing Arts), Michael Hogg (PE), Serina Lee (Mandarin), Rick Gordon (ICT support), Deb De Stefanis (Visual Arts)

Mandarin

In my second year at Donvale Primary School, I look forward to further exploring language learning and intercultural understanding with all the students including our new Foundation students!

In the first term, I will be working with grade one to six students to consolidate useful words and phrases learned last year. We will then continue learning Mandarin through the Accelerative Integrated Method (AIM) with grades one to four students learning ‘San Zhi Xiao Zhu’ and grade five and six students learning ‘Wo Zen Me Qu Na Li’. Foundation students will be introduced to ‘Xiao Ji’.

Through the AIM, students learn Mandarin through songs, chants and other activities based on the stories which provide much context for language usage and application.

I am looking forward to a fabulous Year of the Monkey in Mandarin!

Serina Lee

ICT / REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

Rick Gordon works one day a week supporting students and staff with ICT matters. He is also our Reporting and Assessment co-ordinator where he is responsible for developing our student reports and supporting staff with all reporting and assessment matters. Rick is also a keen musician and a whizz with technology so you may see him around playing the drums in our Staff / Parent band (The Right Staff), or planning, presenting and producing the many various school activities and productions that we have on offer throughout the year.
This is my first year of teaching and I am very excited to be exploring creativity with the students at Donvale Primary. They are so fortunate to have such wonderful facilities and a commitment to their growth in the arts and languages. Each class will have a 1 hour weekly session in the visual arts room.

This term we are focusing on line and shape through techniques and processes such as drawing, painting, printing and digital arts. The school art show will take place later in the year where you will be able to see class group works and also a collection of your child’s pieces collected throughout the course of the year.

Please feel free to come into the art room at any time after school on Tuesdays or Wednesdays to view or discuss your child’s creative journey.

Deb De Stefanis

Performing Arts

I have been teaching at Donvale Primary for a number of years and have enjoyed seeing the Performing Arts area growing in that time. Our wonderful array of instruments is well used each week and our three Choirs and Marimba Band get to perform at various functions throughout the year.

This term in our classroom program the focus will be on:

- Foundation: Keeping the Beat & High and Low
- Years 1 and 2: Beat and Rhythm
- Years 3 and 4: Rhythms, Raps and Rhymes
- Years 5 and 6: Musical Styles (beginning with Reggae – so listen out for the music over the PA each day!)

For new parents:
Performing Arts lessons are held weekly for each grade (1 hour)

Choir is an optional extra for students from year one and above. Each choir meets at lunch times.

Marimba band is for students in year 5 and 6.
Tuesday: Music Makers (years 3/4), Senior Choir (years 5/6)
Wednesday: Marimba band for year 5/6 students.
Thursday: Junior Jammers (years 1/2).
Private tuition is available for a wide range of instruments through Wonnies School of Music. Information sheets are available at the office.

Please feel free to call in to see me in the Performing Arts room or have a chat in the yard any time.

Anthea Keep
Physical Education

Foundation (Preps)

The majority of Term 1 at Foundation level will see students becoming familiar with the surroundings that they are in, whether that be inside or outside. Body movement and fundamental motor skills will be an important facet, as students work in different activities. Students will be required to respond to different stimuli, such as music, a whistle, or particular sounds and/or movements as well as being comfortable in a controlled environment.

Junior School (Grade 1 & 2)

Term 1 will see students in the Junior School practicing their body movement, and gross motor skills. They will be required to learn a variety of stopping techniques throughout the term, and some activities also require ball-handling skills to be tested, as students practice how to throw, roll and catch throughout the term. Classes will be shared indoors and outdoors. There will be a variety of team building games being used to allow the Grade 1 students to acclimatize with working with older students in class.

Middle School (Grade 3 & 4)

This term in the middle school area, students will be working on their athletics skills in each lesson. This is leading into the House Athletics Carnival, which will be held in early Term 2. This is of great importance to the Grade 3 students, who will not have attended any such carnivals before. Additionally, early in the term students have the opportunity to represent Donvale Primary School in the District Swimming team. Trials will be held at Carey Grammar School on the 10th of February, and selection will be held shortly after.

Senior School (Grade 5 & 6)

The start of Term 1 will be dedicated to athletics training. The program is aimed at students practicing and improving their track and field skills in events such as sprinting, middle distance running, discus, shot put, high jump, long jump and triple jump. Each event will be taught during their Sport classes. On the 18th of February and the 3rd of March, students will participate in a Summer Sports Round Robin day. Students will have the opportunity to represent the school in cricket, bat tennis, rounders, softball and basketball. Additionally, the District Swimming carnival is also held in first term, where selected students will race over various strokes across 50 metres. At the end of the term, students will start to be assessed on their fitness levels, as well as starting to be prepared for Cross Country training.

Michael Hogg
Belonging at school makes a difference


Aunt Sue also talked to Tommy’s friend, Lulu, who had come over to play. “What about you, Lulu? How do you like school?” “It’s good. If I need the teacher then I have to put up my hand. But if I need help at playtime I can ask Jackie,” said Lulu. “Is Jackie your friend?” “Jackie’s my buddy. She’s a big girl.” “What does a buddy do?” “She helps me if I don’t know where to go or other stuff. She helps to look after me ‘cos she’s big and I’m new.”

Belonging improves mental health, wellbeing and learning

All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. When these needs are met children develop a sense of belonging at school. Belonging is very important for children’s mental health and wellbeing.

Children who feel that they belong at school are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behavioural problems than other students. They are also more motivated to learn and be more successful with their school work. Research into children’s mental health has found that a sense of belonging and connectedness at school helps to protect children against mental health difficulties and improves their learning.

Making friends and having positive relationships with teachers helps children develop a sense of belonging at school. Having older ‘buddies’ to turn to helps younger children feel that school is a place where they can get help if they need it. Looking after younger children encourages caring and helping in older children and helps to reduce conflicts and bullying. These are some of the ways that children’s sense of belonging at school can be supported.

Starting school is a big change for children

Not only do they have to cope with schoolwork and teachers, but they also have to get used to being part of a class and a whole school. A lot more is expected of children when they start school and there are lots more people to get on with. It helps children to know that there are people at school who will look after them and care about their needs.
More ways schools can help create a sense of belonging

As part of KidsMatter Primary, schools look closely at ways they can continue to build strong positive, respectful relationships with all students and families. This includes things like:

- making the school environment welcoming for all students and families
- encouraging teachers to get to know all their students and their families
- identifying ways of improving communication with families
- focusing on child and family strengths
- making sure that school policies on safety, welfare and discipline are clearly communicated and support a sense of belonging for children and families.

All children need to feel that school is a safe place.

How parents and carers can help

Parents and carers can work with school staff to help create a bridge between home and school. When the adults responsible for children take a positive interest in what happens at school it helps children feel at home. It also makes it easier to pick up any problems early when they are easiest to resolve.

- Find out about the school and what your child is learning; participate in information sessions.
- Make time to listen to your child tell you about what he or she is doing at school.
- Let your child’s teacher know if he/she is having difficulties and discuss what kinds of things you can do at home and school to help.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au

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Dear families,

Welcome back! I hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing break. I am looking forward to another fun filled year at OSHClub and to welcoming all our new families to the program.

**New families:** Enrolling your child or children in OSHClub is easy and free. All you need to do is complete an enrolment form online at [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) where you will have the option of booking as either a permanent or casual user. Once your child is enrolled as you then have the comfort of knowing that the program is available to you anytime and it gives you assurance of knowing your child or children will be cared for in a safe, warm and friendly environment. Please feel free to drop past the OSHClub room any time to introduce your child to the program before they attend. Foundation students will be dropped off and picked up from their classrooms for Term 1 and 2.

**New staff member:** This year we welcome a new permanent assistant, Marie Williams to the program. Marie has been working for OSHClub for around six months and is currently completing her Diploma of Early Childhood and Care. Marie is a wonderful addition to the program and has many talents to share with us all.

**Sun Safety:** Just a reminder that as it is Term 4, it’s time to Slip, Slop Slap! Please make sure your child brings a hat to the OshClub program. OshClub has a “No hat- No outside play” policy. OshClub provides sunscreen. If your child is allergic to a particular type of sun cream please inform the coordinator at the program and ensure that your child brings an alternative sunscreen.

**Remember bookings can be made right until 12pm the night before, or you can book on the day by calling or leaving the text message but there will be an extra charge of $3.00 for bookings within 24 hours. If you’re ever stuck and would like your child to attend OSH After School Care you can call me or leave a message on 0402 362 443 and I will get back to you. For some reason if you need to cancel the child from attending the after school care session you can cancel online if it is before 24 hours or leave a text message on the program phone (0402362443/98422261) if it is on the day. Please remember to update the contact details (Especially the phone numbers and address) on the enrolment form if there is any change. This can be done online at [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au)
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OSHC program phone: 0402 362 443/9842 2261
Coordinator: Kate
Assistants: Marie
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

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**Birthday Wishes To**

Harper C, Eddie E

**Who are celebrating birthdays from 5th—11th February**
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
• $125 for primary school students
• $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Dear Parents,

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held at the following times:

3.40pm – 5.30pm on Wednesday 10th Feb (Yr 1-6)
6.00pm – 8.00pm on Wednesday 10th Feb (Yr 1-6)
3.40pm – 5.30pm on Thursday 11th Feb (Yr 1-6)

BOOKINGS OPEN on Friday 5th February at 9.00am

Go to the school website at www.donvaleps.vic.edu.au and click on the link, or go direct to www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code and follow these instructions.

Enter the school event code

DYC8D

Then follow the 3 simple steps.

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interview times until bookings close.

If you don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, please send a note to school with the approximate times you require.

Interviews are of ten minutes duration and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the website and using our event code. Remember to use the same name and email address you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 9842 3373.
How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open".
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 81 Phone and Windows 81 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 81 Windows Phone or Windows 81/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 81 version Windows Phones, or Windows 81 and 10 devices.

Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au  Don’t forget to like us on Facebook! 📱
Op Shop Volunteers Needed

Doncare needs friendly volunteers to assist them in their Op Shops.

Funds raised in the shops by our volunteers provide substantial funds to our programs in Domestic Violence, Emergency Relief, Family Services, Counselling and Social Support for Seniors.

Call us on 9856 1500
Email us at Opshops@doncare.org.au or drop into one of our shops and ask for an application.
We were in the newspaper!

Please, Miss, Dad’s just run over my iPad – again

Chris Johnston

Schoolbags can be stood on, dropped, thrown, ridden over on a bike, flung out a window. Set on fire. The possibilities are endless. Chances are these days there will be an iPad or tablet in the bag.

Like most, the kids at Donvale Primary School in Melbourne’s sprawling east are all over their devices. There has been a boom in their use in schools, from the humblest state primary school to the loftiest private secondary college. With the boom has come a new set of rules and a whole lot of shattered screens.

The grade 5s and 6s at Donvale are on a ‘parent purchase’ scheme where iPads are compulsory and the school has an online portal to a chosen supplier. The supplier may or may not offer insurance.

The grade 3s and 4s are on a BYOD scheme – “Bring Your Own Device” – where they bring one in from home. Principal Lena Clark says if a family doesn’t own one already they are often given to the child at the end of grade 2 or as Christmas presents. Insurance, once again, is left up to the parents.

The school has strict rules about what the devices can be used for, but also how to treat them. “The kids can’t take them outside, they have to leave them in secure areas while not in class. It teaches them to take ownership and responsibility!”

Breakages occur. Tablets are fragile and schools are rowdy. This is where insurance comes in. If one child drops or breaks another child’s iPad, the parents of the child who dropped it are liable. According to Steve Marks, Australia’s only specialist insurer for school tablets, netbooks and laptops, schoolbags are often run over by mum or dad’s car.

They get one for three years, then get another. If a tablet breaks the school pays the insurance excess and passes it on to parents. In BYOD schemes, common in state schools, everything is left to the parents.

Costs for a broken screen repair would be between $100 and $200. He says he gets more claims from schools in wealthier areas and fewer claims from schools in lower socio-economic regions. “I can’t say exactly why but maybe they look after things better!”

Kim Nickels, a grade 6 teacher at Port Melbourne primary school, says tablets bought by parents for their kids and then brought to school are “100 per cent” better treated than those supplied by the schools.

Her school has implemented BYOD tablet learning this year, where the devices are loaded with 56 apps to suit what is being taught, as well as a Facebook-style network called Edmodo which allows students to talk to teachers online.

The school’s assistant principal, Neil Scott, says a written guideline on tablets was given to parents to sign. This covered appropriate use of the device as well as how to prevent damage: don’t take it outside, store it in the school’s cupboard and carry it in your bag.

Hopefully mum or dad doesn’t run over the bag.